FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

1 AUGUST 1984

Iranian Pilgrims

Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri criticized Saudi Arabia's policy toward pilgrims in remarks reported by Tehran radio, asserting that Saudi officials have assisted Israel by preventing pilgrims from holding anti-American and anti-Israeli demonstrations and that the Saudis have tried to stop Iranian pilgrims from contacting other nationalities because of the Kingdom's fear that the message of the Islamic revolution will spread. In contrast, Musavi-Kho'iniha, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni's representative for pilgrimage affairs, stressed earlier that Iranian pilgrims should not shout slogans against the Saudi Arabian Government and that Iran will strongly condemn any action against the Saudis, according to a press interview cited by IRNA on 30 July. Nevertheless, the hajj official said that pilgrims should shout slogans against the United States, Israel, and the Soviet Union because "there is no healthier, stronger and more effective way than demonstrations during hajj" for Muslims to express their views against the enemies of Islam.

Israel

Likud leader Yitzhaq Shamir and his Alignment counterpart Shim'on Peres met on 1 August to discuss the formation of a national unity government, Jerusalem radio reported. The meeting was later adjourned. Both party leaders had met on 31 July with President Hayim Herzog. After his meeting with Herzog, Shamir stated to the radio that there are no basic differences of opinion between the two parties on economic and Lebanese issues. He also said that he does not "reject outright" a national unity government headed by the Alignment, a statement later denied by his office.

Meanwhile, Yahad, Ometz, and TAMI movements decided to set up a joint bloc to coordinate their moves in the coalition negotiations, the Tel Aviv paper *DAVAR* reported. The three groups decided to inform the president that they support a national unity government and prefer that it be headed by the Alignment.

Egypt

The Islamic Jihad organization stated that it has planted 190 mines in the Suez Canal and the Bab el-Mandeb, and claimed responsibility for recent explosions in those areas, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. MENA had earlier cited a responsible government source's disclosure that a number of ships reported explosions while they were passing through the Gulf of Suez.

Lebanon

Two IDF soldiers were wounded by gunfire from the Syrian held sector in eastern Lebanon, the IDF spokesman announced in a statement carried by ITIM. Two "terrorists" were subsequently killed in a clash with the IDF south of Sidon, according to IDF radio.

In Beirut, the Sodeco and Fu'ad Shihab crossing points were reopened to traffic, Voice of Lebanon radio reported.

PLO Affairs

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat chaired a meeting of seven other committee members in Tunis to discuss the Executive Committee's participation in the expanded Palestinian dialogue conference scheduled to be held in Algiers shortly, KUNA reported citing a Palestinian source. Six members did not attend the meeting, which was too small to meet quorum requirements. Earlier, 'Arafat informed the London paper *ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* that the PNC will convene in mid-August after the different resistance factions have reached agreement in this regard, according to KUNA. In Damascus, PLO Executive Committee member 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar warned against convening the PNC before the various Palestinian factions reach a comprehensive agreement, QNA reported citing the UAE paper *AL-KHALIJ*. Abu Mayzar also told *AL-KHALIJ* that both the Democratic and National Alliances agree that 'Arafat should be replaced by a new Executive Committee chairman.

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NOTICE

Because of a printing error, the cover of the South Asia DAILY REPORT published on Tuesday, 31 July 1984, has an incorrect day, date, and issue number. The correct version should read: FBIS-SAS-84-148, Tuesday, 31 July 1984, Vol VIII, No 148. The inside pages of the book are dated correctly.

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Prime Minister Keshtmand Assesses Economic Situation

LD311747 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] A plenary session of the DRA Council of Ministers was held today. The meeting assessed the implementation of the socioeconomic growth plan and the DRA state budget for the first quarter of the year beginning 20 March.

Sarwar Mangal, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and chairman of the DRA State Planning Committee, and Mohammad Kabir, minister of finance, presented reports concerning the aforementioned subject to the session. A number of ministers including Lieutant General Abdol Qader, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and minister of national defense; Mohammad Esma'il Danesh, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and minister of mines and industries; 'Abdol Ghaffar Lakanwal, minister of agriculture and land reform; Raz Mohammad Paktin, minister of electric energy; Mohammad Khan Jalalar, minister of commerce; and Mohammad Aziz, minister of light industries and foodstuff, expressed their views in conneciton with the presented reports. They also reported on the accomplishments of their relevant ministries regarding the implementation of the growth plan and state budget during the first quarter of the current year.

After discussion and debate, the session unanimously approved a comprehensive resolution concerning the implementation of the socioeconomic growth plan of the country and the state budget, encompassing the tasks of ministries, state committees, departments and establishments.

Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, assessed the work of the session and spoke on its outcome in much detail. Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand said:

The report presented by the DRA State Planning Committee is indicative of the fact that the results obtained from implementing the plan in the major sectors of the national economy during the first quarter of the current year have enjoyed relative success and manifest further economic stability in the country. For example, there has been an increase of 25,000 hectares of land cultivated in the autumn and spring planting campaigns with permanent and temporary plants compared to last year. It is also worth mentioning that compared to last year there has been a 16.4 percent increase in planned indices in the irrigation sector and a 28.7 percent increase in the value of industrial products, particularly major industrial products such as electric power, natural gas, cement, iron, concrete, combed cotton, textile fabrics, woolen fabrics, meat, wheat, fertilizer, coal, sugar, and vegetable oils. The value of the production of these items has gone from 2.3 billion Afghanis in 1357 [1978] to 5.6 billion Afghanis in the current year. This has led to considerable increases in these sectors of 1.7 percent and 8.4 percent in comparison with the plan for the quarter and 14.5 percent and 29.7 percent in comparison with this period of the year.

During the first quarter of the year, 20.1 percent more natural gas has been produced than was planned. Compared with the actual figure of this period, an increase of 29.7 percent has occurred during the past year. As a result, 20.6 percent more condensate than planned and 10.9 percent more than actually produced in the first 3 months of last year has been produced, which is a cause for hope.

In the chemical, printing, and carpentry industries, complete implementation or a partial increase in comparison to the plan have also been attained.

The chairman of the Council of Ministers then assessed the work of ministries and departments as a whole and of each of the sector ministries [as heard] in particular. Critically assessing their positive aspects, weaknesses and shortcomings, he said: As the assessments indicate, there are shortcomings in the work and specific measures ought to been taken for their elimination. The work ought to be treated with a spirit of self-sacrifice and patriotism.

Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, when approving the socioeconomic growth plan and the state budget for 1363, stated: Defects, shortcomings, and the lack of specific balance still exist in our economy. We have considerable shortcomings in the direction and administration of the economy. The party and revolutionary government do not conceal these shortcomings and defects, but on the contrary take serious and resolute measures for their elimination. In accordance with these directives, today in the plenary session of the Council of Ministers we assessed critically the first-quarter results. The shortcomings, present in the implementation of the plan and budget of the current year's first quarter must be eliminated resolutely, and compensated for, in the coming quarters. The ministers and heads of committees and departments of DRA are personally responsible for implementing the specified tasks. It is expected that these shortcomings and weaknesses are will no longer be present at the 6-month assessment results. Now, serious investigation will have to be carried out, for only by maintaining serious and permanent control can we be sure that work will go ahead as planned.

Assessing Karmal's statement, Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand said that implementing and setting up correct economic policy count as the fundamental links for the growth of the national economy. The economy, one of the major, fundamental areas of the activity of the party and people, has a decisive effect on social progress. Therefore the PDPA Central Committee and Babrak Karmal personally consistently draw the attention of responsible people in the ministries and departments to the solution of major economic problems.

We could, and ought to, solve the question of the speedy growth of our economy with further energy. And in this way the material and moral needs of the people could be completely met. This problem is complex, containing a broad range of social, political, economic, and organizational factors. We should realize this, and that alone would be a basis for constructing a new and democratic society.

Successful resolution of economic problems is tied in closely with improvement of work methods, planned administration, and economic mechanism. In this connection the principle guide, that

production must depend on eeconomic calculation, ought to be seriously considered. This is how proportion between expenditure and the results of work in sectors of the national economy are maintained. The effectiveness of our activity in the area of plan and administration depends on correct and timely statistical information on production, resources, and distribution. We ought to try with all our power to create a systematic and qualitative system of accounts in every department, enterprise, and establishment.

I want to draw the attention of comrades ministers and the heads of departments to this point: Their role and responsibility in solving economic problems are vital and considerable. This requires creative activity and personal initiative, capability and the ability to organize work, the maintenance of correct and reciprocal links with relevant sources, and consistent attention to and meeting of workers' needs. We judge the success of those in charge not only by the timely and complete implementation of the planned tasks, but by their true attention to improving working conditions and the life of the worlers.

We have now begun the evolution of the system of administration of the national economy; we are seeking new forms and sectors of economic activity. Our aim is to maintain a reasonable proportion between the number of workers who are engaged in production and those in administration. The reasons for the inflation of [word indistinct] administration ought to be eliminated and there should be regular improvement in the organizational and technical aspects of their work.

The approved plan has the essence of law. It should be respected, it should be observed and implemented without deviation. This matter depends not only on economic discipline, it is a party matter and involves political responsibility.

AFP: Heavy Fighting Reported in Panjsher Valley

BK311550 Hong Kong AFP in English 1428 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Islamabad, July 31 (AFP) — Heavy fighting erupted again in northern Afghanistan's Panjsher Valley in the last two weeks when Moslem resistance fighters pushed back a Soviet attempt to gain more ground in the rebels' bastion, Western diplomatic sources said here today.

The sources said that on July 17 a Soviet attempt to go deeper into the valley was foiled by the guerrillas who either damaged or destroyed a large number of tanks and armoured vehicles.

The valley was apparently calm after a reported withdrawal to mountains by rebel forces under guerrilla leader Ahmad Shah Masud. the Soviet-Afghan troops were "forced to retreat" to the lower reaches of the valley captured by them in last April's major offensive, the diplomats said.

But Soviet helicopters continued to strafe the mujahedeen's hideout, and high altitude bombing was used specifically around Astaneh, in the north, the diplomats said.

They said the Soviet and Afghan tactic in the current phase of the Panjsher offensive appeared to use combined ground and air mobile units. The ground forces were pushing guerrillas up the valley while helicopters landed forces behind the retreating resistance fighters, the diplomats said.

The tactic apparently aims to drive mujahedeen further inside the valley where it will be more difficult for them to mount retaliatory strikes and obtain food and supplies.

The sources said the current efforts show the Soviets' continued intention of seeking to hold lower parts of the valley while remaining active in other areas of the valley to deny mujahedeen a base.

The Soviet-Afghan sweep in the northern areas of Afghanistan continued until last Friday while bombing in villages of Herat Province bordering Iran have claimed hundreds of lives since last month, the diplomats added.

Regime forces with some Soviet support have also mounted attack on Logar valley, south of Kabul, the Afghan capital. In a two-pronged push from Kabul and Gardez, troops were trying to keep the convoy route open to reach beleaguered outposts in eastern Paktia Province.

In Kabul, diplomats reported heavy security precautions in the city where troops were carrying out identity checks.

Fighting was also reported in Kabul's Bala Hisar area last Thursday where the sources said an ammunition depot was destroyed. Firing was heard from the suburbs of Deh Pak, Kheyr Khaneh and Qala Chaman during the week but no further details were available.

Rebels in Various Provinces Crushed

LD311832 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Excerpts] As a result of successful operations mounted today in Atabgul, west of Ghazni Province, by our courageous Armed Forces, major groups of the Harakat-e Islami band were crushed and a number of these criminal were captured. Twelve DShK, two mortars, one recoilless artillery weapon, four rocket launchers, and a large quantity of military equipment, many heavy weapons, and propaganda leaflets and documents proving the links of these criminal bands with foreign reactionary bands, were seized by our vigilant Armed Forces.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that a grand meeting was held in Ghazni city on the occasion of the victory of the Armed Forces, attended by Solayman La'eq, minister of nationalities and tribal affairs, and Muhammad Nabi 'Azimi, assistant to the minister of national defense. They spoke of the strength of the Armed Forces and their victory in crushing the rebels.

The correspondent adds that the weapons and ammunition seized from these barbarous traitors to the homeland were exhibited to the working people of Ghazni city. The workers of Ghazni city, on seeing the weapons and ammunition, commended the victory of our heroic Armed Forces and denounced the inhumane deeds

of the rebels who are, in fact, servants of pounds, rupees and dollars.

According to another report, 27 rebel hideouts in Paktia Province were destroyed by our vigilant security forces and a number of weapons were seized. By crushing the rebel bands in Paktia Province our working compatriots are increasingly being relieved of the cruelty of the rebels and can resume their peaceful life.

Quoting a security forces' spokesman, a BAKHTAR correspondent reports that as a result of the recent operations mounted in the environs of Paktia, a number of rebels were crushed, and a quantity of weapons, antitank mines, [word indistinct] recoilless artillery, hand grenades, a quantity of rocket launcher shells, 2,250 rounds of DShK ammunition, 80 rounds of ZP-1 ammunition, 28,980 rounds of various ammunition, and 2 clothing depots and 1 food depot were seized.

According to another report a number of rebels were crushed in the environs of Nangarhar and Konduz Provinces. Eleven were captured in Nangarhar Province, and a quantity of various weapons were seized in the two provinces by the security forces.

As a result of operations mounted in the environs of Baghlan Province a number of armed rebels were crushed and [word indistinct] of their ringleaders, along with one recoilless artillery weapon with 20 of its shells and three assorted weapons were captured.

Another report says that similar operations were mounted in the environs of Bamian, Parwan and Konarha Provinces, which resulted in a number of armed rebels being crushed, and various weapons and ammunition seized.

PRC, Pakistan, U.S. Plot Against DRA

LD010630 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0426 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Kabul July 31, BAKHTAR — A group of the ringleaders of the Afghan counter-revolutionary bands, hostile to DRA, have gone to Beijing for holding talks with the official source of China.

Following the delegation of the Afghan counter-revolutionary bands, two Pakistani generals, Ali Akbar Khan and Akbar Hussain Sayed will visit China for talks aimed at maintaining necessary coordination for the supply of weapons to Pakistan.

Commenting on these facts, *HAQIQAT-E ENQELABE SAWR* writes that, undoubtedly, the meeting of the Afghan counter-revolutionary bands with the military generals of Pakistan and the visit of Sahabzada Yaqub Ali Khan, foreign minister of Pakistan to Beijing are part and parcel of the interconnected plots which have obviously been hatched in Washington, Beijing and Islamabad against the working people of Afghanistan.

It is not the first time that Beijing's leaders rush to help the routed counter-revolutionary bands whose hues and cries for help have shaken the capital of the Western countries.

The daily emphasizes that China is one of the real factors in the undeclared war against Afghanistan. It gives military training to the hired miscreants in the camps located in Xizang Chinese Province and Pakistan and export them to revolutionary Afghanistan for subversion.

Beijing's leaders act as a close accomplice and strategic ally of Washington in waging the undeclared war against the working people of Afghanistan.

China intervenes in the internal affairs of Afghanistan by sending money and weapons to the bandits via Pakistan. Thus, it has given new dimensions to its slanderous and subversive activity in the Afghan border.

Pakistan supported by China has transformed into an open front of armed fighting against the working people of Afghanistan. By placing lethal weapons at the disposal of the military regime of Islamabad, China feed the Afghan bandits with assorted weapons and intensify tension and the arms race in the region.

It is said that China would give Pakistan tanks and anti-helicopters rockets. Political observers believe that these will be put at the disposal of Afghan counter-revolution through the military regime of Pakistan as usual.

Experience has shown that the strivings of the Afghan counter-revolution and their masters across the border have failed to produce the desired results. These strivings being organised under diverse covers against the working people of Afghanistan can only preserve tension in the region and can obstruct the process of finding solution for the issues around Afghanistan, the daily concludes.

U.S. Support for Counterrevolutionaries Cited

LD010645 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0420 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Kabul, July 31, BAKHTAR — The Afghan counter-revolutionary elements stationed in one hundred camps in Pakistan are being taught by 300 American military instructors [to] launch subversive actions against the DRA, writes daily *HAQIQAT-E ENQELABE SAWR*.

The daily recalls that the counter-revolution has received over 218 million dollars from Washington in the past five years.

The daily points out that the United States has given over 100 million dollars to the Afghan bandits during the current Afghan year "March 20, 1984" [as received] for pushing up their criminal actions in Afghanistan.

The daily indicates that the miscreants at the behest of the U.S. imperialism in collusion with Chinese hegemonism and the reaction of the region have inflicted damages to the DRA amounting to 35 billion Afghanis.

Having at their disposal the enormous amounts of funds and weapons, the sold-out bandits and mercenaries abetted by the U.S. imperialism and its allies have perpetrated numerous crimes against the people of Afghanistan.

But these saboteurs and bandits are being routed by the Armed Forces of the DRA, the daily concludes.

Iran Warned on Slander About Chemical Weapons

LD310928 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0454 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Kabul, July 30, BAKHTAR: A political observer of BIA writes:

For several years now the United States has been vainly trying to spread lies about the use of Soviet chemical weapons in Afghanistan. Its "evidence" has been more than once refuted by American, British, Canadian, and Australian scientists and military experts, by a representative of the International Red Cross in Pakistan, and a special UN commission set up at Washington's insistence.

But despite these facts and contrary to logic, the US State Department finds volunteers who help it disseminate such concoctions. Among them are some Iranian officials and mass media who are thereby playing into imperialism's hand. Washington's slanderous campaign is aimed at covering up the Pentagon's (?lethal schemes) of chemical warfare in Europe and the build up of its (?chemical potential) in the Pacific spearheaded against Asia, Central and South America. But why did Iran join the misinformers? Such actions are in line with the policy of the United States, help maintain confrontation and mistrust in the region, and encourage intervention in the home affairs of sovereign Afghanistan.

Afghanistan has repeatedly presented documents testifying to the use of American-made chemical weapons by counter-revolutionary bands against Afghan civilians and the country's civil projects. Chemical mines, projectiles, and grenades have also been captured. Data on this score was sent to the United Nations.

Thus, a whole arsenal of chemical weapons was seized after the rout of counter-revolutionary bands in the Herat Province. It included 83-mm [word indistinct] chemical projectiles, vessels with M-12 tear gas, and lots of CS-517 grenades. The bandits who used these weapons are being infiltrated into Herat from Iran.

But slanderers shut their eyes to these well- known facts and thus assist the United States in its efforts to bring its chemical weapons to Asia.

Iran should voice concern over the use of American and not mythical Soviet chemical weapons in Afghanistan.

PDPA, Lao Party Sign Protocol in Moscow

LD312348 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] The first party cooperation protocol between the PDPA and the People's Revolutionary Party of Laos, for 1984-85, was signed in Moscow on 27 July 1984.

The protocol was signed for the PDPA by Habib Mangal, member of the PDPA Central Committee and the DRA ambassador to Moscow, and for the People's Revolutionary Party of Laos by [name indistinct], member of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of Laos.

Briefs

Agreement With Mongolia — A cooperation agreement between the DRA Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Mongolia was concluded this morning. The agreement was signed and exchanged by Shah Mohammad Dost, minister of foreign affairs, on behalf of the DRA, and by Jambalyn Bandzar, ambassador from Mongolia to Kabul. [Text][Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 28 Jul 84 LD]

Materials on Dispute With India Over Border Fence

Foreign Ministry Expresses Disappointment

BK290710 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 29 Jul 84

[Text] A spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed surprise and disappointment when his attention was drawn to a statement by the Indian minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, in Parliament as saying that there is no question of abandoning the decision to erect barbed wire fence along the Bangladesh-India border and there will not be any bilateral talks between the two countries on this issue. The spokesman referred to the talks recently held between the chiefs of the Bangladesh Rifles and [India's] border security force agreeing both sides resolve the issue through mutual consultations and negotiations. He further referred to the statement made in the India's Rajya Sabha on 26th of April last by the former home minister stating that India will make diplomatic efforts to solve the dispute. Expressing concern at the present statement, which contradicted earlier Indian stand, the spokesman reiterated Bangladesh's position that such unilateral construction in violation of the agreement between the two countries negates the principle of cooperation and friendly relations and does not contribute to good neighborliness. He also expressed the feeling that the two countries should try to settle this issue in a spirit of friendship and goodwill.

The spokesman also categorically denied allegations that the Tripura national volunteers had set up any base in Bangladesh and were receiving help and assistance from the Bangladesh Government. Replying to allegations recently made in a section of the Indian press, the spkesman described them as baseless, motivated and malicious. He also pointed out that the leader of the Tripura national volunteers has never been in the Bangladesh territory and as such the question of his meeting with anyone in Bangladesh did not arise at all.

India's 'Deviation' Noted

BK310302 Dhaka Overseas Service in Bengali 0900 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The New Delhi authorities seem to have deviated from their earlier position on the issue of the Indian barbed wire fence along the border. The issue has recently adversely affected bilateral relations between the two neighbors. Recently, the chiefs of the Bangladesh Rifles [BDR] and the Indian Border Security Force [BSF] met and decided to settle the issue of barbed wire fencing along the border through mutual dialogue and consultations. The meeting was held following some shooting incidents when India unilaterally tried to put up barbed wire fencing along our northern borders.

Very recently, however, Indian Home Minister Narasimha Rao, in a Parliament statement, said there is no question of abandoning barbed wire fencing along the India-Bangladesh borders and that there will not be any consultation between the two countries on this issue. The Indian home minister's statement obviously negates the consultations and decisions of the chiefs of BDR and BSF, and Bangladesh's concern over his statement is obviously not groundless.

A Bangladesh Foreign Ministry spokesman expressed surprise and disappointment over Narasimha Rao's statement in the Indian Parliament. The spokesman referred to the recent meeting of the BDR and BSF chiefs during which both sides agreed to solve the issue of barbed wire fencing along the border through negotiations. The spokesman also referred to the statement made by the former Indian home minister in the Rajya Sabha in April stating India was making diplomatic efforts to solve the problem.

However, Narasimha Rao's recent statement in the Indian Parliament is completely contradictory to India's earlier stand on the issue. Bangladesh has sufficient reason to express concern over the Indian home minister's statement in the Lok Sabha. It has always stated that India's unilateral erection of barbed wire fencing along the borders would constitute a clear violation of the unanimous decision arrived at by the two sides on the issue. The Bangladesh Foreign Ministry spokesman reiterated the policy pursued by Bangladesh on the issue. He is right in asserting that any attempt by India to unilaterally put up barbed wire fence along the borders would be a hostile act running counter to the policy of cooperation and friendship between the two countries, thereby impairing the good neighborly relations. Bangladesh firmly believes India's construction of a barbed wire fence along the borders will embitter the good neighborly relations between the two countries. Ever since India tried to go ahead with the barbed wire fencing, Bangladesh has been categorically stating its position that the fencing will severely affect the [words indistinct] between the two countries. Obviously, India's attempt to put up a fence along the border is a blatant violation of internationally accepted norms on common borders. Moreover, under the border agreement signed between the two countries in 1974, neither India nor Bangladesh has any right to set up any permanent structure within 150 yards of the borders. Therefore, any attempt by India to construct a barbed wire fence along the border would be a violation of international regulations on common borders as well as the border agreement between the two countries.

For the sake of maintaining a stable relationship between the two countries, India should give up the plan to construct the barbed wire fence along the border,nd the two neighbors should solve the problem on the basis of equality and justice. The Bangladesh Foreign Ministry spokesman also suggested that the border issue should be resolved by the two countries in a spirit of friendship and goodwill.

Border Forces Discuss Situation

BK301010 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] A flag meeting between the Bangladesh Rifles [BDR] and the Indian Border Security force [BSF] was held in (?Sylhet) recently. A handout issued in Dhaka yesterday said the meeting was held in a very cordial atmosphere and discussed among other things prevention of border smuggling and border crimes. Both sides expressed unanimous opinion to hold such meetings reg-

ularly. In the talks, the Bangladesh side was represented by the director general of the BDR while the Indian side by the inspector general of BSF.

Trade Agreement With India To Be Renewed

BK271429 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 27 Jul 84

[Text] Bangladesh and India have agreed to renew the trade agreement signed in 1980 for another 3 years. The agreement follows 4 days of trade talks between the delegations of the two countries which ended in Dhaka today. The Bangladesh side at the talks was led by the commerce secretary, Mr H. Husain Ahmad, while the Indian side was headed by its commerce secretary, Mr Abid Hussain.

During the talks, the two sides reviewed the performance of existing two-way trade and agreed to narrow down the present imbalance in the trade. Both sides have also agreed to increase the volume of trade between the two countries, particularly by increasing exports from Bangladesh. The agreed minutes signed today by the leaders of the two delegations (? further) called for increased collaboration in the fields of trade and other economic activities among the neighboring countries to ensure development and regional self-reliance and promote South-South cooperation. Both the sides maintained that while trade is a vehicle for peace and growth, increased and balanced trade between Bangladesh and India is particularly consistent with the declared policies of the South Asian Regional Cooperation, SARC, to which both the countries belong.

The Indian delegation left Dhaka this afternoon.

Delhi Cites Reports on 4 Killed in Srinagar

BK010850 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] In Srinagar, police opened fire to disperse a violent mob near Muajahid Manzil [mansion] in downtown. Agencies have reported four persons were killed in the firing and some injured. The trouble started when a group of people tried to take out a procession but police barred their way. They resorted to heavy stone pelting which turned violent. Government has imposed Section 144 [banning assembly of five or more persons at one place] in the whole of this area and movement of people and vehicular traffic has been restricted. The situation is reported to be under control now.

AFP on Violence

BK010704 Hong Kong AFP in English 0657 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 1 (AFP) — At least two people were killed and several others injured when police opened fire in Kashmir's capital Srinagar today to separate supporters and opponents of the state government, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) news agency reported.

Supporters of the ousted chief minister, Farooq Abdullah and his successor, G.M. Shah, came on the streets after a curfew was lifted last night. A spokesman for the Abdullah faction of the National Conference Party said at least five of their supporters were killed in the firing.

[Hong Kong AFP in English in its transmission at 0838 GMT on 1 August reports that "Up to seven people were killed and many others wounded today as police opened fire repeatedly to break up clashes between pro and anti-government supporters in Srinagar, capital of Kashmir, news agencies reported here. A spokesman for supporters of ousted Chief Minister Dr Farooq Abdullah said at least seven of his supporters were killed, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said."]

Tension was running high in Srinagar after yesterday's session of the state assembly when Mr. Shah won a vote of confidence after stormy scenes in which the speaker was voted out and evicted bodily from the chair.

Police first resorted to baton charges, then lobbed tear gas, but when that proved ineffective they opened fire, a police spokesman told PTI.

Dr Abdullah was ousted from power last month after 12 of his party members formed a separate group headed by Mrs Shah and backed by the Congress (I) of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Home Minister Says Shah Supporters Not 'Defectors'

BK010645 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] The government is seriously considering to bring about an antidefection law. Replying to a 2-day debate in the Lok Sabha yesterday on the recent developoments in Jammu and Kashmir, the home minister said it is not correct to describe the National Conference members who withdrew support to Dr Farooq Abdullah as defectors. Mr Narasimha Rao pointed out that despite many efforts there was no agreed definition on who should be treated as a defector. He said it is not easy to resolve the conflict between party loyalty and the freedom of conscience of a member. In the absence of any clear definition of the term it is wrong to use the world defector in an abusive way.

The home minister asserted that the dismissal of the Farooq ministry was perfectly justified, as the former chief minister had lost the majority. The Jammu and Kashmir governor was well within his rights to use his discretion in dismissing a minority government and exploring a democratic alternative in forming another government. Mr Rao said there was an increasingly disquieting trend during Dr Abdullah's regime when antinational forces were gaining strength. Thought the situation had not reached the point of no return, the former chief minister proved ineffective in controlling them in spite of repeated advice from the center.

An opposition member asked the government to substantiate the charges that Dr Farooq Abdullah acted against the interest of the country or encouraged antinational elements. Mr Rao said the center had enough evidence to show that a lot of arms were floating around in the sensitive border area. Some officials were unusually soft in giving licences.

As already reported, the Jammu and Kashmir assembly has expressed its confidence in the ministry of Mr Ghulam Mohammad Shah. Forty-two members voted in favour of Mr Shah and none against. Earlier 32 members of the opposition National Conference led by Dr Farooq Abdullah had walked out in protest against the removal of the speaker, Mr Wali Mohammad Ittoo.

Olympic Hockey Incident Discussed in Parliament

BK311417 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] The reported holding of a Sikh convention in New York and the disrespect shown to the Indian flag at the Los Angles Olympics hockey match figured in the upper house of Parliament today. Some members demanded a statement from the government on the matter, but the leader of the House, Mr Pranab Mukherjee, ruled out making any statement.

USSR's Arkhipov Suggests Expanding Cooperation

BK311507 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] The Soviet deputy prime minister, Mr Ivan Arkhipov, has suggested working out concrete measures aimed at expanding cooperation between India and his country, especially in the fields of trade and economy. Mr Arkhipov made this suggestion when the Planning Commission member, Mr A.M. Khusro, met him in Moscow yesterday.

Pakistani Coverage of Punjab Events Criticized

BK311509 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] The information and broadcasting minister, Mr Bhagat, told the lower house of Parliament today that during his recent talks with the president and the information minister of Pakistan in that country, he drew their attention to the slanted and objectionable Pakistani media coverage of developments in Punjab. Mr Bhagat said he also drew their attention to some derogatory references to the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, in the Pakistani media.

Replying to questions, Mr Bhagat said he told the Pakistani leaders that such distorted and one-sided media coverage was not conducive to the efforts being made to improve bilateral relations.

The minister told the house that the two sides agreed to devise ways and means to prevent recurrence of such things in future. Mr Bhagat also told the house that some TV and radio programs have been received recently from Pakistan Government as part of the exchange program.

Briefs

Agreements With France — India and France have agreed to transfer technology in combating long-term pollution that could emanate from nuclear waste. They will also cooperate in monitoring air pollution in and around Delhi. These agreements were reached during the deputy minister for environment, Mr Digvijay Singh's, recent visit to France. Under another agreement, India and France will work on a program for tackling problems of desertification in North Africa. [Text] [Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 27 Jul 84 BK]

New TV Transmitters — The number of TV transmitters in the country has gone up to 75 with the commissioning on 26 July of a transmitter at Bareilly in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh. The Bareilly transmitter will have a range of 2,000 square km and will cover a population of 1.2 million. [Text] [Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 26 Jul 84 BK] A TV transmitter was commissioned today at Vellore in Tamil Nadu. It is the 76th TV transmitter in the country. It will have a range of 2,000 square km and will cover population of 8.5 lakhs. [Excerpt] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Jul 84 BK] The 77th TV transmitter in the country was inaugurated today at Monghyr in Bihar by the minister of state for food and civil supplies, Mr Bhagwat Jha Azad. It has a range of 2,000 square km and will cover a population of 8.5 lakh. [Text] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Jul 84 BK] The number of TV transmitters in the country has gone up to 78 with the commissioning today of a transmitter at Surat in the western state of Gujarat. The transmitter will have a range of 2,000 square km and will cover a population of 1.2 million. [Text] [Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 29 Jul 84 BK]

Afghan Mujahidin Asked To Leave Peshawar

BK311336 London BBC World Service in English 0015 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Alex Brodie report on "Radio Newsreel" program]

[Text] The authorities in Pakistan have been worried for some time now about the agents of the Afghan secret police infiltrating Afghan guerrilla groups based in the Pakistani frontier town of Peshawar. Now, after three bomb explosions which they blame on the agents, the Pakistanis have asked the guerrillas to leave Peshawar in an effort to prevent more violence. Here is Alex Brodie:

[Begin Brodie recording] The bombs have exploded in a crowded bazaar at Saddar killing six people, outside the guerrilla headquarters in Peshawar killing at least five, and at a hostel in Chitral without loss of life. The commissioner of Peshawar, Mr Jahandad Khan, the senior Pakistani official in the town, said he thought Khad, the Afghan secret police, were responsible. He did not believe this was the start of a new round of warfare between rival Afghan guerrilla groups. They are all vulnerable to retaliation, he said. They cannot afford to do it. And what did he think of bombs of the size of the Peshawar car bomb could have been made secretly in Peshawar. [sentence as heard] There had never been a bomb this size before, he said. He said it was well known that the guerrilla groups were infiltrated by Khad agents. More than 50 had been imprisoned during his 2-year term of office. The commissioner said he was certain that there would be more bombs and this would endanger Pakistani residents. One of of the dead in Saturday's bomb in Peshawar was a Pakistani rickshaw driver. This was part of the reason why the guerrilla groups have been asked to move out of Peshawar by the end of August. Efforts were under way to find land in the countryside for their offices. There are now some 300,000 Afghans living in Peshawar alongside the original 500,000 residents. [end recording].

PAKISTAN TIMES on Border Issues With Iran

GF271110 Rawalpindi PAKISTAN TIMES in English 20 Jul 84 p 5

[Text] A team of Iranian officials is currently holding talks with Pakistani officials on border issues between the two countries, according to an official source. The meeting is taking place in Quetta since Saturday last, the source said. These officials are members of a land committee which was constituted during the visit to Tehran last May of Interior Minister Mahmoud A. Haroon to hold regular meetings and discuss any problems relating to border issues between Iran and Pakistan.

Soviet Union Interested in Expanding Trade

GF281009 Karachi DAWN in English 23 Jul 84 p 1

[Text] Lahore, July 22: The Soviet Union has suggested that the private sector should be included in all future protocols to be signed for economic collaboration with Pakistan. According to official sources, clear indications have been given by the Soviet Union to purchase in bulk conventional and nonconventional products and value-added items from Pakistan even if this country is unable to sell them in the European and American markets due to the West's protectionist policies. The USSR has also offered to help Pakistan develop its agro-based industry, irrigation projects, and downstream industries of the Pakistan Steel Mil's.

The ministers of industry and finance are considering these proposals and various sub-committees are working out the modalities of collaboration with the Soviet Union in the light of the generous offer made by that country.

Earlier last year, a detailed report was sent to Moscow about the views of the private sector in Pakistan. In this regard the chambers of commerce and industry and other representative bodies of businessmen were requested to give their views to the government.

In the field of agriculture, the Soviet Union has offered technical and financial assitance for the production of high-quality cotton, rice and potatoes. Offers for the establishment of radio and television stations, assembly plants for passenger cars, power stations and agricultural machinery repair plants are also being processed by the ministry of industry. In addition to this, another list of about 150 items was submitted by the Soviet Union in January last. A draft protocol and future bilateral agreeements would be prepared for approval by the two governments.

PAKISTAN TIMES on Envoy's Meeting in Jidda

GF271116 Rawalpindi PAKISTAN TIMES in English 19 Jul 84 P 8

[Text] A conference of Pakistan's envoys in the Gulf countries will be held in Jidda on Aug. 16 and 17. It will be chaired by the foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, it was disclosed here today by the foreign secretary, Mr Niaz A. Naik.

The conference will discuss major developments in the region and measures to strengthen our economic and cultural relations with the countries concerned. It will also discuss matters pertaining to the welfare of the Pakistani communities in the Gulf area, he said.

A regional conference of our envoys in the Gulf countries was held in the foreign office in February last year. All the plenary sessions of the conference were attended by the president.

The president had described in his address to the Majlis-i-Shoora on July 10 that closest possible relations with the Islamic countries, particularly of the Gulf region to which Pakistan was a back door, constituted an important pillar of Pakistan's foreign policy. It was in this context, the foreign secretary said, that the president had earlier entrusted the foreign minister with the responsibility of chairing an inter-ministerial committee which would recommend measures to further strengthen our relations with all countries of the Gulf.

The conference to be held in Jidda next month will also accord an opportunity to Pakistan's envoys to have a detailed view of the various aspects of their country's national and foreign policies. In turn, their recommendations will prove to be useful input for policy formulation.

Although envoys from all the Gulf countries will attend the conference, it is also possible that our ambassadors in Syria, Jordan and Turkey will also be asked to attend.

JANG Reports 202 Percent Rise in Prices

GF291219 Lahore JANG in Urdu 22 Jul 84 p 1

[Correspondent's report]

[Text] Islamabad — According to reliable sources, the government statistics report that prices have risen by 202.48 percent in December 1983 as compared to fiscal year 1975-76.

If the fiscal year 1975-76 is taken as the base year, the prices increased in January 1981 by 159.63 percent, in January 1982 by 176.88 percent, and in January 1983 by 183.78 percent. By December 1983, prices had risen by 202.48 percent.

Briefs

Canadian Aid for Refugees — Under a note of understanding signed in Islamabad today, Canada will provide a grant of 14 million Canadian dollars in food aid during 1984-85 for Afghan refugees living in Pakistan. According to this document, the Canadian Government will supply wheat and edible oil worth 8 million and 6 million Canadian dollars respectively. [Text][Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Jul 84 BK]

Delegation to China — A 15-member delegation of the Federal Advisory Council led by its chairman, Khwaja Mohammad Safdar, left Islamabad for Beijing on a 9-day good-will visit to China [Text][Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 Jul 84 BK]

Tents for Afghan Refugees — A donation of 2,000 tents for the Afghan refugees in Pakistan was presented to the chief commissioner for Afghan refugees by the secretary general of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society in Islamabad today. The tents, worth about 3.4 million rupees, were urgently required by the chief commissionery to provide shelter to the refugees. Speaking on the occasion, the secretary general of the Pakistan Red Crescent said that the society had provided relief goods worth approximately 90 million rupees since 1980. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 30 Jul 84 BK]

NEPAL

Briefs

Viral Encephalitis Deaths — Katmandu, July 28 (AFP) — Three persons including a child have died of viral encephalitis in Nepalganj, 390 kilometers (241 miles) southwest of Katmandu, an official source said today. According to the Bheri zonal hospital, five children are undergoing treatment for the disease at the hospital. Efforts are being made by local authorities, social workers and the zonal and district administration to contain the disease, which created havoic in Katmandu last year and early this year. Vaccinations in the 657,000 population Katmandu valley have helped to control the current outbreak. [Text][Hong Kong AFP in English 1017 GMT 28 July 84 BK]

SRI LANKA

No Injuries in Bombing of Jaffna Rail Station

BK311049 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Hand bombs thrown into the premises of the Jaffna railway station and at a passing police vehicle just in front of the station yesterday caused panic among the passengers and others at the station. Hundreds of passengers were at the station at that time to board the Jaffna intercity train to Colombo. Police who were on escort duty in the train immediately closed the gates of the station leading to the platform and, after ordering the people to lie down on the ground, opened fire at the direction from where the bombs were thrown. No one was injured. Police who were in the vehicle too opened fire.

Following this incident, the train left 18 minutes before schedule, leaving about 200 passengers behind. Among them were the TULF leaders A. Amirthalingam and M. Sivasithamparam, who had gone there to take the train to Colombo. They were expected to meet in Colombo today to discuss the second chamber proposals of the all-party conference. Police sources said that one reason for the bomb blast might have been to prevent the TULF leaders traveling to Colombo for the meeting.

Delhi: Government Press Move Declared Unconstitutional

BK271419 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 27 Jul 84

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the government's attempt to ban the use of pseudonyms in newspapers and impose punishment on editors for its violation has been declared unconstitutional. The attorney general, Mr Shiva Pasupati, has ruled that it violates the constitutional provision relating to freedom of speech, expression, and publication. The Sri Lankan Government has recently approved an amendment to the Press Council law to make the ban effective.

Briefs

Canadian Assistance — The Canadian Government will assist Sri Lanka in implementing a community health services project in the Mahaweli development area. The Canadian Government will provide a grant of 93 million rupees for this program. Sectors in system "B" of the Mahaweli development area will be provided services in basic health care, drinking water, and child care services. Environmental sanitation, nutrition, local level planning, community mobilization, and health education will also be parts of the program. [Excerpts][Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 30 Jul 84 BK]

Reportage on Hijacking of Air France Boeing 737

Plane Lands at Tehran

LD010523 Tehran IRNA in English 0515 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Tehran, August 1 IRNA — The hijacked Air France Boeing 737 plane landed at Mehrabad Airport at 06:47 local time (03:17 GMT).

Hijackers were not identified yet but dispatches said that they are three Lebanese and probably armed with hand grenades.

Air France plane with 58 passengers and 6 crew was hijacked enroute to Paris-Frankfurt 15:30 GMT, and prior to landing at Mehrabad Airport, Tehran, fueled in Geneva and also had short stops in Beirut and Cyprus.

Iran's Foreign Ministry officials attended Mehrabad Airport following the landing of the hijacked aircraft Boeing 737, early this morning.

The Air France jetliner hijacked at 19:00 hours local time (15:30 GMT) enroute from Paris-Frankfurt landed at Mehrabad Airport at 06:47 hours local time (03:17 GMT). The Air France plane fueled in Geneva and later had short stops in Beirut and Larnaca Airport, Cyprus.

The plane first intended to land at Tabriz Airport in north west Iran, but due to the closure of the runway, it could not land there.

It is reported that the pilot, while threatened by hijackers, inevitably destinated [as received] Tehran airport. The report said that the Iranian Air Force repeatedly announced that all of the airports in the country would be closed to the hijacked aircraft and it would not get permission to land in Iran.

Informed sources announced that when the Air France jetliner's pilot found his landing way blocked over Tehran, desperately requested landing permission.

Due to threats by hijackers of exploding the plane, it was granted emergency landing permission.

Iranian officials, on humanitarian reasons and for the sake of saving the life of 58 passengers and six crew members, agreed to emergency landing of plane at Mehrabad Airport.

Latest reports say that the subject was followed up by the Iranian Foreign Ministry officials and other authorized officials who are present at the airport.

According to the latest report the Air France jetliner engines are kept running and the hijackers haven't yet announced their demands although the Iranian Foreign Ministry officials are present at Mehrabad Airport.

An unconfirmed report received here at 10:15 a.m., said that the hijackers intend to leave Tehran airport for an unknown destination.

Reports added that the hijackers are three or four Arabic-speaking persons. Walid Junblatt, Lebanese minister of tourism, confirmed that one of the hijackers was speaking with a Lebanese accent. Most likely the hijackers are Lebanese.

Iranian officials from the Foreign Ministry and other authorities were at Mehrabad Airport examining the situation.

The hijacked plane is now surrounded by security forces and the hijackers are demanding an Arabic translator.

French, FRG Envoys Briefed

LD010924 Tehran IRNA in English 0916 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 1, IRNA — The French charge d'affaires to Tehran, Jean Perrin, was called to the Foreign Affairs Ministry and informed of the latest developments on the commandered Air France 737 which landed at Tehran Mehrabad Airport this morning, a ministry spokesman said today.

Meanwhile, upon the request of the West German ambassador to Tehran, Jens Petersen, the latest developments on the hijacked plane were put at his disposal.

The spokesman further added that at 8:40 a.m. local time (5:10 GMT), food and other facilities were provided to the passengers and the crew members.

Commenting on the reason for allowing the commandered plane to land in Tehran, he said that despite the announcements of the Iranian ambassador to the United Nations at Geneva headquarters, that Iranian air space would be closed to the plane, the plane entered the Iranian air space and requested permission to land in Tabriz, north west Iran.

However, he added, since the Tabriz airport was closed and the local officials refused to let the plane land, it flew towards Tehran.

The spokesman further added that upon the repeated requests of the pilot, and also for humanitarian reasons and preventing the hijackers from carrying out their threat of blowing up the plane, it was allowed to land at Tehran airport.

Iranian jet fighters escorted the commandered plane as soon as it entered Iran's air space.

Iranian officials have reportedly met the demand of the hijackers to put an Arabic speaking translator at their disposal. However, no talks have been held between the hijackers and the Iranian officials.

Furthermore, as of 11:00 a.m. local time (08:30 hours GMT), the hijackers have not made any demand.

Demand for Refuelling Considered

LD010934 Tehran IRNA in English 0931 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 1, IRNA — The Iranian officials at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport are now considering the demands of the three hijackers of the Air France Boeing 737 for the plane to be refueled.

Earlier the hijackers demanded food which was immediately provided. The hijackers have not asked for any medicine or stated any medical emergencies. Therefore, previous repors that a number of the passengers were wounded should have been baseless.

"Islamic Guards" Phone Demand

NC010817 Paris AFP in English 0808 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Tehran, Aug 1 (AFP) — A telephone message allegedly made on behalf of the hijackers of the Air France jetliner which landed here today demanded the release by France of five men jailed for the 1980 Paris assassination attempt against former Iranian premier Shapur Bakhtiar.

The message was phoned to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE by a man claiming to belong to the "Islamic Guards".

He said, in a message addressed to the French Government, "If you do not want any harm to come to the plane, you must free the five men arrested in France for the Bakhtiar attack."

A French policeman and a woman were killed and another policeman was wounded when an Iranian commando attempted to break into Mr Bakhtiar's apartment block on July 18, 1980. Mr Bakhtiar was unharmed.

The Air France Boeing 737 with 63 people aboard was hijacked last night as it was about to land at Roissy Airport, Paris, coming from Frankfurt.

Meanwhile, a second anonymous phone call to the AFP bureau in Tehran claimed responsibility for the hijacking on behalf of the "Indian branch of the Islamic Jihad".

The caller, speaking English with an Indian or Pakistani accent, said one of the hijackers was a Pakistani.

"This action is aimed at denouncing (French) President (Francois) Mitterrand's policies, his aid to the regime in Iraq, and the asylum France has granted to terrorists opposed to the Iranian Islamic Republic," the caller said. He threatened stepped-up action if the French Government did not change its policy.

Paris Reports Hijackers' Demands

LD010831 Paris Domestic Service in French 0800 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Excerpt] A very late report concerning the hijacking of the Air France Boeing 737 at Tehran with the hijackers' demand: A caller claiming to speak for the group Pasdaran of Islam, Guards of Islam, has in a telephone call to the AFP office in Tehran asked the French authorities for the release of five people held in France for having taken part in an attack on the former Iranian prime minister, Shahpur Bakhtiar, on 18 July 1980. For the moment there has been no official reaction from the French side.

Two Passengers Released

LD011205 Tehran IRNA in English 1203 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Tehran, Aug 1, IRNA — The hijackers of the commandeered Air France jet liner freed two passengers of the plane this afternoon.

The two passengers, a woman and her child who were ill, were led to the medical care unit of the airport for necessary treatment.

Hijackers Refuse To Negotiate

LD011429 Tehran IRNA in English 1421 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Tehran Aug. 1 IRNA — A group of Iranian and foreign journalists were allowed at 15:05 hours (11:35 GMT) to approach the hijacked Air France Boeing 737 for making reports and taking films and pictures but before reaching the plane (from a distance of 150 metres) they were warned by the hijackers that they would start shooting. The airport control tower also warned the reporters not to advance further.

The Air France boeing is reportedly stationed in the end of the western runway and within a radius of 50 metres security forces are in full control of the situation. However, there is no precise information on what is going on inside the airplane. Reports also indicate that a number of ambulances and fire engines are on the alert.

Two of the hijackers who had covered their heads and faces with headgear were seen by the group of reporters at the side door of the plane. They were putting on short sleeve shirts, according to IRNA reporters.

The hijackers whose identities are not known yet, have refused to negotiate with Iranian officials and have not declared their demands either. The Islamic Republic authorities who agreed to the landing of the plane here due to the persistent request of the pilot and for the sake of the passengers and the crew, are trying to solve the problem peacefully.

Bakhtiar on Khomeyni Regime's Use of Terrorism

LD011023 Paris Domestic Service in French 1000 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Excerpt] Shapur Bakhtiar's office in Paris published a communique during the morning stating that terrorism is one of the institutions of the Ayatollah Khomeyni regime. The communique adds: This hijacking is part of the normal process of the regime which always uses terrorism in order to export its revolution.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,805

LD311718 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Communique No 1,805 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran states that in the past 24 hours the mighty warriors of Islam, stationed along the entire fronts of the imposed war, defended their positions and maintained their control over Iraqi aggressor forces' land and air operations. Our forces also repelled every enemy move by opening heavy defensive fire on Saddamist mercenaries' positions, fortifications and logistic routes, resulting in halting enemy fire qnd inflicting losses and casualties on each front.

On the western front, destruction of a section of the Saddamists' front positions resulted in five enemy heavy weapons positions and observation posts being completely destroyed and a number of enemy troops killed.

Our patrols were active on every front and maintained control over enemy patrols. The heaviest exchanges of fire were in the Shalamcheh and Sharhani regions.

In the Abadan operational sector, valiants of the Gendarmerie opened retaliatory fire on enemy positions and weapons; halted enemy fire; destroyed eight light-and heavy-weaponary and observations posts and one loader; and killed at least five of the Zionist-Ba'thist mercenary troops.

Montazeri: Hajj Best Time To Condemn U.S., Israel

LD312231 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Qom, July 31, IRNA — Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri urged Iranian pilgrims to inform other Muslims of the key to the success of the Islamic Revolution.

He said the rulers of Muslim-populated countries should know that whether they liked it or not "the peoples are about to be awakened and if they want to stay and rule they should rely on Islam and their peoples, not America and the Soviet Union."

Speaking to a large group of Iranian hajj officials as well as Ershad Islami Minister Mohammad Khatami here Monday, he said the hajj ceremony was the best time for Muslims to express condemnation of their enemies.

"The most suitable place where the slogan of 'Death to America' and 'Death to Israel' should be announced to world is at the hajj ceremony," he said.

Montazeri Blames Arabs for Israel's Gains

LD311331 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Excerpts] On the occasion of hajj week, a large group of clerics, supervisers and overseers of hajj groups, together with Musavi-Kho'iniha, the imam's representative and supervisor of Iranian pilgrims, Khatami, the minister of Islamic guidance, and several officials from the hajj and pilgrimage organization, met with Ayatollah Montazeri yesterday.

Ayatollah Montazeri, referring to the lack of interest shown by the leaders of Muslim countries to Islam and their nations, said:

Today, Islam and Muslims are dealing with government leaders who are either ignorant and uninformed about Islam or agents and mercenaries of the enemies of Islam and international Zionism. On the other hand Islam and Muslims are tied up with corrupt clergymen who are subservient to their courts and who confirm the oppressive acts and crimes of those governments.

If disasters have befallen the world of Islam and if usurping Israel has been able to occupy the first qibla of the Muslims [Jerusalem], vast areas of Islamic lands and the oppressed country of Palestine, it has been because of the two factors mentioned above. If Islamic countries which enjoy the great power of Islam and unlimited human and natural resources had adhered closely to the behests of Islam and the Muslim nations instead of establishing relations with the enemies of Islam, Israel would not have been able to do so much wrong. If the Saudi Government would leave the pilgrims free to hold anti-American and anti-Israeli demonstrations instead of stopping them and instead of holding exclusive and imperialist conferences, Israel would not become so bold as to allow itself to attack Islam and Muslims in southern Lebanon and occupied Palestine and to occupy the first qibla of the Muslims for so many years.

During the hajj ceremonies Iranian pilgrims ought to inform the oppressed nations of the secret of the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran. If Saudi officials make arrangements to prevent Iranian pilgrims from contacting brothers and sisters in other countries, it is because they fear this. By exporting the revolution we mean putting the experiences and fruits of our revolution at the disposal of the oppressed, deprived people of the world. We do not place any importance on their territory. For us what is important is awakening the people and increasing their awareness.

Imams See Khomeyni on Complaints, Resignations

LD311216 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Members of the central secretariat of Friday imams, Hojaj-e Eslami [plural of hojjat ol-eslam], Mohammad 'Aba'i, Mohammad Javad Keshmiri, and 'Ali Qazi-'Asgar, this morning were received in audience by Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. They presented a report to the imam of the nation on shortages, shortcomings, methods of selection and investigation used by Friday imams of all over the country, complaints sent by the Friday imams to the central secretariat and the reason behind their own resignation. Afterwards, in a speech, Imam Khomeyni asked them to continue their work seriously with the cooperation of Hojjat ol-Eslam Abtahi and other members of this secretariat.

Also in the course of this meeting, the imam of the nation was asked to give permission to Hojjat ol-Eslam Shaykh Hasan Sane'i to participate at sessions of this secretariat so that he could

convey reports of the secretariat to his great excellency the imam. The imam of the nation agreed to their request.

Official Permission Required for Demonstrations

LD271718 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Jul 84

[Text] In a statement the public relations office of the central headquarters of the Islamic Revolution committee warned those who stage illegal marches and demonstrations with the aim of creating disorder in Islamic society. Official permission from the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran must be obtained to stage any march or demonstration. Permission will never be granted to individuals who, under the guise of supporting the Hezbollah and being opposed to the lack of purdah, indulge in creating chaos and disorder in society.

The statement again warned those women who have not yet adjusted to the regulations of the Islamic Republic and who ignore the principles of Islamic society by refusing to respect Islamic purdah to give up their desperate actions. They are warned to be aware that the pure blood of the martyrs and the wrath of the Islamic Republic will eventually engulf them.

Open Session of Majlis Held 31 July

LD311554 Tehran IRNA in English 1534 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Tehran, July 31, IRNA — Speaking in the open session of the Majlis here this morning, the deputy from Tehran, Assadollah Badamchian, said that alertness of the Iranian people was a source of encouragement for the followers of God and disheartening for the unbelievers.

He further referred to the message of Imam Khoemyni to the Majlis in which he stressed unity. Therefore, he stressed, the Majlis should use its efforts to implement the principle of "Neither East Nor West" and also carry out all political, social, economic and cultural principles of Islam.

The next speaker of the session was the deputy from Qazvin, Zanjan Province, Abdullah Hejrati, who talked about readiness of the Islamic combatants to fight off the Iraqi forces. He stressed that the Islamic forces would continue their fight until punishment and removal of the aggressor. He further warned the reactionary rulers of the region to stop supporting the tyrant regime of Iraq, before it was too late.

Further in his speech the Qazvin deputy talked about the forthcoming hajj rituals and urged the Iranian pilgrims to use their utmost effort in presenting the real feature of the Islamic Revolution of Iran.

During the session a letter of the Guardians Council on contradiction of part of the note of Article Five of the law dealing with the request of vote of confidence from any new Majlis by a prime minister, in accordance with the constituational law was read . Consequently debate on the said note was resumed and was corrected and approved as follows: The jurisdiction of considering an issue as crucial or controversial, as stated in the Article 87 of the constitutional law for which the government shall request vote of confidence from Majlis shall fall with the Cabinet ministers.

The session ended at noon and the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday morning.

Greek Delegation Arrives for Trade Talks

LD311049 Tehran IRNA in English 0940 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Tehran, July 31, IRNA — A 12-man economic delegation from Greece led by that country's energy and natural resources minister, Evangelos Kouloumbis, arrived in Tehran Tuesday morning. [31 July]

The Greek delegation was welcomed at Mehrabad Airport by deputy oil minister, 'Abbas Honardust, who told IRNA that the visit was for the resumption of oil sales of Iran to Greece.

Honardust added that the Greek minister would meet the Iranian oil minister, Mohammad Gharazi, and other high-ranking officials. The topic of talks, he added, will be finding a ceiling for trade exchange between the two countries.

He went on by saying that Greece's consumption of oil was 240,000 to 250,000 barrels per day, totally imported from foreign countries.

Mr. Kouloumbis told IRNA that, as an envoy of his country, his mission was to negotiate with Iranian officials on the expansion of bilateral trade exchange and hoped that he would sign a contract with Iran for the purchasing of oil of approximately one million tons per year.

He said that his visit also had political aspects and the delegation's visit could be a suitable start for the expansion of friendly relations between the two countries. He(the Greek minister) expressed hope that Iran's Oil Minister Mohammad Gharazi would also visit Greece.

The volume of exchange between the Islamic Republic and Greece was 130 million dollars in 1983 and the terms of trade were in favour of Iran.

The Greek delegation is comprised of economic representatives from various ministries, who will also discuss the sale of Greek fabricated goods to Iran.

Another Greek delegation including representatives from private sectors and government owned sectors had arrived in Tehran on Friday.

Gharazi Meets Energy Minister

LD311511 Tehran IRNA in English 1452 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Tehran, July 31, IRNA — Evangelos Kouloumbis, minister of energy and natural resources of Greece, who arrived in Tehran this morning heading a delegation comprising his coun-

try's commercial and Oil Ministry officials, met and conferred with Oil Minister Mohammad Gharazi this afternoon.

In this meeting which was also attended by some Iranian Oil Ministry officials, Kouloumbis expressed optimism on the outcome of his trip to Iran and said that the purpose of his trip was to negotiate with Iranian officials concerning the expansion of commercial and oil relations between the two countries.

Kouloumbis also announced his country's readiness to cooperate with Iran in the areas of ship building, exchanging of goods as well as purchasing of oil from the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Gharazi, welcoming the Greek delegation, said that the Islamic Republic of Iran has developed its economic, technical and commercial ties with many countries after the victory of its Islamic Revolution, giving priority to the non-aligned and Third World countries.

He also expressed Iran's readiness to hold fruitful negotiations with the Greek economic delegation.

It was decided that in order to follow up talks on mutual cooperation, four groups composed of officials of both countries should be formed in the fields of oil, commerce, shipping and construction activities and pave the way for concluding a letter of understanding between the two countires.

In this visit, the Greek mission's proposal on purchasing more than one million tons of crude oil annually was accepted pending more negotiations on this issue.

Velayati Confers With Minister

LD311658 Tehran IRNA in English 1624 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Tehran July 31 IRNA — The visiting Greek minister of energy and natural resources, Evangelos Kouloumbis met and conferred with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here today.

Stressing profound mutual ties between the two countries, the two sides further emphasised expansion of friendly relations in the various political, economic and cultural fields. To increase volume of bilateral exchanges, they furthermore expressed preparedness of the two countries for conclusion of long-term agreements in the fields of of oil and economy.

In this meeting, the Iranian foreign minister extended an invitation to his Greek counterpart to visit the Islamic Republic which was welcomed by the Greek minister of energy on behalf of the Greek foreign minister. The Greek minister of energy arrived here this morning, at the head of a 12-man economic delegation.

IRNA on Ambassador to Pakistan's Talks With Zia

LD290917 Tehran IRNA in English 0838 GMT 29 Jul 84

[Text] Tehran, July 29, IRNA — Iranian Ambassador to Islamabad Mir Mahmud Musavi met with President Ziaul Haq of Pakistan Saturday and discussed issues of mutual interests, Iraqi-imposed war, and Iraq's deployment of chemical weapons.

During the meeting President Ziaul Haq, referring to the expansion of Iran-Pakistan relations, stated that Iran, as a neighbouring and brotherly country, was of especial importance to them and hoped that by efforts of the two countries, their ties in various fields would be further expanded.

Iranian ambassador reiterated importance of bilateral ties and outlined danger of employing chemical weapons by Iraq and its violation of international regulations. He also added that international organisations did not condemned such inhuman action of Iraq, which itself encouraged Iraqi regime to re-deploy chemical weapons.

Musavi, referring to the request of the secretary general of the United Nations from Iran and Iraq, said that in its reply the Islamic Republic reiterated that it has never used chemical weapons and had no intention to do so in future, but Iraq refused to give a clear response to the request which could mean that the Iraqi regime has the intention to deploy chemical weapons again.

Sheykh ol-Eslam Departs for Pakistan

LD312329 Tehran IRNA in English 1915 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Tehran, July 31, IRNA — Political Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam today left for Karachi, Pakistan, to submit a message of President Ali Khamene'i to his Pakistani counterpart. He is also due to pay official visits to Nepal and Bangladesh where he will deliver messages of President Khamene'i to his counterparts.

[Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 1630 GMT on 31 July broadcasts a shorter report on Sheykh ol-Eslam's departure, which adds only that "during his meetings with the Nepalese authorities the necessary coordination will take place for opening a diplomatic mission."]

In a talk to an IRNA reporter at Mehrabad Airport, Sheykh ol-Eslam said that Iran in its general foreign policy gives priority to Muslim and Third World countries in commercial exchanges, noting, too, that the economic relations of the Islamic Republic have expanded with Pakistan and Bangladesh.

He added that arrangements would be made during his trip for a joint Iran-Pakistan committee to be formed shortly.

Talking on the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) the deputy foreign minister said that the OIC has not taken a positive step in solving the Iraqi-imposed war and in our view, other international organisations have taken a far better stand on the issue. The committee, he continued, has refrained from accepting the most basic principles of Islamic teachings and international laws. The Islamic Republic, he stressed, has several times asked them to take a stand against the repeated cries of Saddam Husayn for using chemical bombs and bombardment of residential areas. But, it did not take any measure, he added.

Another point is that even though the world has acknowledged the fact that Saddam Husayn is an aggressor, the OIC has shown no inclination to do so. In fact some of the OIC member countries

need the propaganda about this committee due to their domestic policies. He said also that there was no need for the peace committee as long as it declined to admit that Saddam Husayn is a criminal aggressor.

In conclusion, he said that all peace proposals not acknowledging Saddam Husayn as being the aggressor and the cause of the chaos, would be rejected by the Islamic Republic. "Saddam Husayn is the one who initiated and expanded this war and it is he who is continuing this aggression. We will continue our efforts to limit this war to Saddam Husayn," Sheykh ol-Eslam emphasised.

Economic director general of the Foreign Ministry, Mohammad Hoseyn Adeli, is accompanying Sheykh ol-Eslam on his trip.

Besharati, Delegation Return From Nicaragua

LD281756 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 28 Jul 84

[Text] Tehran, July 28, IRNA — The Iranian deputy foreign minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, who headed a delegation to Nicaragua to attend the 5th anniversary of the Nicaraguan revolution celebrations, returned to Tehran today.

Besharati, during his stay in Nicaragua, also held talks with senior officials of the country concerning bilateral ties.

He also presented a message from the Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i to the coordinator of the Board of Government of National Reconstruction Daniel Ortega. He also met with another board member Dr. Ramirez Mercado, and Minister of Foreign Affairs Miguel D'Escoto Brockman.

Foreign Minister Velayati Leaving for Turkey Visit

LD300849 Tehran IRNA in English 0833 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] Tehran, July 30, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati will leave Tehran for Ankara, Turkey, Tuesday for a two-day official visit.

The visit is taking place on the official invitation of Turkish Foreign Ministry in reply to a visit to Iran by the Turkish Foreign Minister Vahit Halefoglu last March. Bilateral ties of Iran and Turkey will be the topic of their talks.

Comments Before Departure

LD311811 Tehran IRNA in English 1723 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Tehran July 31 IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati left here today, at the head of a delegation, for an official visit to Turkey. Minutes before his departure this evening, the foreign minister told the IRNA correspondent at the airport here that his visit was aimed at expanding mutual ties between the two countries and "naturally the issues of the region and other international topics will also be discussed with the Turkish officials."

Velayati said the Iranian delegation will follow the results of the recent trip to Iran of the Turkish prime minister, Turgut Ozal, during which trip, he said, Iran and Turkey concluded new trade and economic agreements.

On the subject of the Iraqi war, he said "we will once again emphasise on our fixed position." He added tht the Iraqi regime had to be removed in order to bring peace to the region.

Velayati also rejected the 'peace committee' of the Organisation of Islamic Conference for the one-sided statements of some of its members and its failure to take a stance against Iraqi use of chemical weapons and attacks on civilian quarters.

The visit to Turkey is in reply to a visit by the Turkish foreign minister, Vahit Halefoglu in March.

A member of the Majlis foreign relations committee, Hojat ol-Eslam Rahbar, Deputy Foreign Ministers Hussein Kazem-Pour Ardebili and Ali Ahani are accompanying Dr. Velayati.

Coverage of Visit

For Ankara reportage on the visit to Turkey by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, including his talks with Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, President Kenan Evren, and Foreign Minister Vahit Halefoglu, see the Turkey section of the 1 August Western Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

KUNA: Paper Interviews Opposition's Mas'ud Rajavi

LD010916 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0729 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Kuwait, 1 Aug (KUNA) — The leader of the Iranian opposition Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization Mas'ud Rajavi called on the Arab countries to pressure countries which supply Iran with weapons to stop. He also called on them not to fear the present regime or grant it any concessions.

Rajavi in an interview with *AL-ANBA'* published today stressed that the Iranian regime does not enjoy internal stability and that his organization has traveled half the road to toppling this regime and has prepared a complete scenario for the post-Khomeyni period.

He added that the majority of the Iranian people know the reality about the regime which killed thousands and imprisoned scores of thousands. He discounted that fact that the army would carry out a coup d'etat because one of the reasons for the continuation of the war is to preoccupy the officers and the army with the fighting.

He explained that the Iranian army now numbers 196,000 soldiers and is deployed along a front of 260 miles, most of it facing the town of Basra. He said that the expected assault, Val-Fajr 6, will not take place in the summer as a result of the high temperatures. He said he knows all details which were drawn up for this assault and which make it difficult to carry out at present."

Rajavi spoke about the Islamic Republican Party of Iran refusing to hold peace negotiations with Iraq. He said everyone knows that the opportunity was available to Khomeyni a number of times to realise a just peace with Iraq; he rejected this, however, despite Iraq's acceptance of peace.

Rajavi expressed his belief that Israel has been and is still an ally of Khomeyni's regime. He said America's role is "clear and obvious to me" and that the American officials have been and are still aware of Israel's military backing for Khomeyni's regime.

Replying to a question about the possibility that the army would carry out a military coup, Rajavi said: That is impossible, since Iran is the only country in the world with two Ministries of Defense; and it is the only country with two different armies — a regular army and the Revolutionary Guards — which are totally different from each other."

He explained in reply to a question about the mediation underway to end the Gulf war that he had met and talked with some of the mediators and informed them that it is in the interest of Khomeyni for the war to continue and as long as Khomeyni's regime remains, the mediation will fail.

He pointed out that the war of the oil tankers is a natural outcome of the weakness and ineffectiveness of Khomeyni's regime. He said there are no dependable agricultural or industrial sources of revenue in Iran and Iran is suffering from the volume of foreign imports which reached $24 billion last year.

Syrian Ambassador Calls Iraq Aggressor in War

GF301846 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 19 Jul 84 p 3

[Interview with Syrian Ambassador Ibrahim al-Yunis by unidentified *ETTELA'AT* correspondent in Tehran — date not given]

[Text] In an exclusive interview, Syrian Ambassador Ibrahim al-Younis said: Since the beginning of the war, conditions in Iran have remained just. Anyone contemplating coming to Iran as mediator must recognize this point.

Referring to the formation of the peace committee of the Islamic Conference in Jidda, the ambassador said: Iraq is an aggressor and Iran has the right to defend itself. Saddam Husayn and his regime are responsible for so much damage to the Islamic people of Iran and Iraq. The people of Iraq are our people and their benefits are ours. Saddam Husayn is responsible for forcing the Iraqi people into a war which does not concern them. Through his actions Saddam Husayn has inflicted far greater losses on the Iraqi people than the damage he has caused to Iran. He has carried out the inauspicious plans of the imperialists and Zionists who have tried to plant the seed of animosity and hypocrisy among the Iranian and Arab nations. Thank God this plot has failed. In my view, conditions in Iran are just and must be recognized. These conditions have not changed since the beginning of the war. It is clear that Saddam Husayn's regime must go, after which the people of Iraq will be able to appoint their own regime and government.

Mr Ibrahim al-Yunis reaffirmed: We believe that Iraq must have an Islamic regime, because 90 percent of the people of Iraq are Muslims. Saddam Husayn's regime has provoked the border differences between the two countries. We will stand by the Islamic regime. The friendship between our countries is growing stronger every day.

The Syrian ambassador then talked about a possible successor for Saddam Husayn, saying: Saddam Husayn represents a reactionary and antinational front. There are certain traitors among the Muslims who pretend to be Muslims but their actions betray Islam. They are, of course, recognized by all Muslims. Saddam Husayn is recognized in the same way.

The ambassador continued: Saddam Husayn's regime is reactionary and imperialist. Its relationship with the United States and France is clear proof of this. With regard to the fall of Saddam Husayn, the people of Iraq must appoint a regime of their choice. The Saddam Husayn regime will meet the same fate as that of the shah.

Radio Iran on Reaction to Montazeri Statements

GF301820 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] Montazeri added to the disgrace of the merchant-like, profitseeking clergy with his confessions yesterday which have been interpreted by observers as the surrender of the government to the protests of the people.

Montazeri expressed anxiety about the fact that mosques have been turned into clergymen's stores instead of displaying religious fare. He decried the fact that instead of piety and worship, the clergymen had become involved in barter, trade and profitseeking. Montazeri is the most reactionary pawn of the regime and has played a major role in dragging the clergy into political affairs and the allocation of jobs and positions among clergymen. He is now endeavoring to show the people that he is on their side — by repeating their protests — and that he is a supporter and promoter of public interests and welfare now that the people's clamor against treachery, (?hoarding), commercialism, and banditry by the government's mullahs has reached such extremes.

Today nationalist elements reported from the radio and television of the Islamic Republic that the dissemination of Montazeri's speech the radio yesterday has led to differences and clashes among representatives of the regime. Most of the government clergymen are saying that the airing of the speech will give people a pretext to intensify their protests against the clergymen in the mosques — clergymen who have brought piety close to commerce, have taken over all the business affairs of the areas, and have been utilizing the arches and the pulpits as open stores. The people are quite dubious of Montazeri's sincerity and say that this pre-ordered speech is a precursor to the transfer of government trade away from the mosques which have been transformed into centers of supply and distribution of goods all over Iran.

The failure of the distribution policy of goods in mosques which led to public criticism has forced the government to suspend the authority of mosque officials and to officially take over the

distribution of goods. This is being carried on nowadays in a manner which is similar to the procedure prevailing in communist countries. According to reports by nationalist elements, a large black market caters to various needs through the mosques under the control of government mullahs. Some high-level government authorities, even some ministers including Nateq-Nuri, the interior minister, have been accused of links with the black market. Rationed commodities which are distributed by the government at official outlets mostly find their way to the (?smugglers') market and are sold to people at exorbitant prices.

Last year, the Majlis deputies had accused some government organizations including the war victims' foundation — on the basis of documentary evidence — of selling food and consumer goods allocated to the war victims on the black market. In the provinces, most of the governors and executive officials, in collusion with Friday imams and local clergymen, have sold quotas of steel, cement, construction materials, and foodstuffs on the black market and have made astronomical profits!

Clandestine Notes Montazeri's Anti-Riyadh Remarks

GF311716 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Excerpts] Following the waning of propagandistic attacks against Saudi Arabia which followed the Riyadh authorities' invitation to Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Shaykh Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri vehemently criticized the Saudi leadership in a speech to the supervisors of the hajj caravans today. He accused the Riyadh government of corruption and subservience to Zionism and labeled the clerics of Saudi Arabia as corrupt courtiers.

Shaykh Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri did not mention the Khomeyni regime's links with Israel and its purchase of arms from that country. Political observers state that Shaykh Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri's attack on Saudi Arabia and its leaders, in contrast with the cordial tone of Hashemi-Rafsnajani's recent utterances, indicates that differences have surfaced between Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Montazeri.